



Saguaro National Park News Release

14-7

For Immediate Release

December 22, 2013

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Saguaro National Park December Program Schedule

Saguaro National Park is offering a variety of hikes and talks this winter that explore the park's wonderful natural and cultural history. Program listings also are available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/sagu, or visit us on Facebook. Interpretive programs are free, but park entrance fees apply. Program schedules are subject to change; call the visitor centers for updates or reservations. Saguaro National Park will be closed Christmas Day.

Naturalist Programs at Tucson Mountain District (West, 2700 N. Kinney Road):

Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 10:45 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 30 minutes

The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 2:15 p.m. **Puma: Predator, Prey, and Peril** Talk: 45 minutes

Often called puma, cougar, or mountain lion, discover the true nature of this secretive, nocturnal and elusive predator. Explore the threats that this creature faces as it struggles to survive within an ever shrinking habitat. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 5, 12, 19 2:15 p.m. **Geology of the Tucson Mountains** Talk: 45 minutes

The Tucson Mountains used to be part of the Santa Catalinas. A geologist explains how they separated and what is shaping the Tucson Mountains today. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 4, 11, 18 2:15 p.m. **Those Who Came Before** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the Hohokam, indigenous people who inhabited this area from about A.D. 250 to about A.D. 1450. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 1:15 a.m. **Desert Jigsaw Puzzle** 45 minutes, 100 yards

Also, **Dec. 8, 15, 22, 29** 10:45 a.m. When competition and cooperation vie for attention in the Sonoran Desert, the result is an intricate jigsaw puzzle of plants and animals. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 2:15 p.m. **The CCC in Saguaro NP** Talk: 45 minutes

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a Great Depression-era work program that greatly influenced national, state, and county parks. Saguaro's trails, picnic areas, and scenic drives were established during this program. Old photos and movie clips illustrate a brief history of the CCC in this area. *Call to confirm. Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 4, 11, 18 1:15 p.m. **Against All Odds** Talk: 30 minutes

A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the "deck is stacked" against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **Lizards: Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Frequently overlooked, discover how these small denizens of the desert become a critical component of our desert community. *Wheelchair accessible.*

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Naturalist Programs at the Rincon Mountain District (East, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail):

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 8:30 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** 1 mile Guided Walk

Join volunteer naturalist Vicki Powers for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 2:00 p.m. **Walk with the Past** 1 mile Guided Walk

Join park staff as we step into the past to learn about the lives of the prehistoric Hohokam. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** 1 mile Guided Walk
5, 12, 19, 26 11:00 a.m.

Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:00 p.m. **Reptiles & Amphibians of the Sonoran Desert** *Illustrated Talk*

Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible*

December 5 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *Illustrated Program & Activity*

Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*

December 6, 13, 20, 27 1:30 p.m. **Ranger's Choice/Visitor's Choice** 1.5 mile Guided Walk

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

December 6, 13, 20, 27 3:00 p.m. **History is a Work in Progress** *Presentation*

Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible*

December 7, 14, 21, 28 2:00 p.m. **Wilderness Ramble** 1 mile Guided Walk

Here's your chance to take a walk with a ranger with twenty years' experience in the Sonoran Desert. Bring your favorite question or topic, or just enjoy the best stories of the day: wildlife, wildflowers, or wilderness, as the weather permits and the seasons change. Sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

December 13 & 27 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** 1 mile Guided Walk

Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, **advanced reservations are required**, and can be made by calling 733-5153

December 27 11:00 a.m. **The Expedition of Juan Bautista de Anza** *Presentation*

Join park ranger Al Watson in the visitor center auditorium to retrace the steps of Juan Bautista de Anza on his historic expedition of 1775 – 1776. What discoveries were made and hardships endured as these intrepid travelers made their way from Tubac, Arizona to San Francisco, California. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Visitor Center Locations/Phone Numbers

Both visitor centers are open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except Christmas Day.

Red Hills Visitor Center (Saguaro WEST)
2700 North Kinney Road
Tucson, AZ 85743
(520) 733-5158

Rincon Mountain Visitor Center (Saguaro EAST)
3693 South Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730
(520) 733-5153

For more information about Saguaro National Park and some of its partners, Friends of Saguaro National Park, Western National Parks Association, and the Rincon Institute, visit these websites:

www.nps.gov/sagu

www.friendsofsaguaro.org

www.wnpa.org

www.rinconinstitute.org

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